

CIA/OCI/BRIEF 143-75  
15 SEPTEMBER 1975

Approved For Release 2001/08/21 : CIA-RDP86T00608R000300010045-0

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**WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 143-75.4**

**1. ARGENTINA: PRESIDENT PERON HAS FORMALLY TRANSFERRED HER AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, ITALO LUDER, AND ON SEPTEMBER 13 WILL BEGIN A 40-DAY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR HEALTH REASONS. EFFECTIVE POWER HAS LONG SINCE PASSED FROM HER HANDS; SOME OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THIS VACATION MIGHT BE THE PRELUDE TO HER DEPARTURE FROM OFFICE. LUDER IS NEXT IN THE LINE OF SUCCESSION. (UNCLASSIFIED)4**

**2. ARGENTINE: ARGENTINE ECONOMY MINISTER CAPIERO, JUST BACK FROM LOAN NEGOTIATIONS IN THE US, HAS ANNOUNCED SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN OBTAINING BADLY NEEDED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM ABROAD.4**

**HIS SUCCESS IN SECURING SOME \$800 MILLION IN LOANS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND, THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND US COMMERCIAL BANKS WILL HELP THE BELEAGUERED ECONOMY AND ENHANCE CAPIERO'S REPUTATION. HE HAS EMERGED AS THE CABINET'S MOST PROMINENT FIGURE AND A POTENTIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IN 1977.4**

**THE ECONOMY MINISTER, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON, SOUNDED A BASICALLY OPTIMISTIC NOTE ON PROSPECTS FOR THE ECONOMY, WHILE NOT MINIMIZING SUCH PROBLEMS AS INFLATION, UNEMPLOYMENT,**

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WITHDRAWAL OF CAPITAL, AND A HIGHLY UNFAVORABLE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. CAPIERO INDICATED THAT NO NEW MASSIVE DEVALUATIONS WERE IN STORE, BUT SAID THAT FREQUENT SMALLER DEVALUATIONS, DESIGNED TO KEEP EXPORTS COMPETITIVE, WOULD BE CARRIED OUT. Y

CAPIERO'S PROMINENCE COULD MAKE HIM A TARGET OF THE SAME LABOR AND MILITARY LEADERS WHO OUSTED FORMER PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER LOPEZ REGA AND FORMER INTERIOR MINISTER BENITEZ. BENITEZ' SUCCESSOR AT INTERIOR, COLONEL VICENTE DANASCO, WAS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY CHARGED WITH REACHING FOR POWER AND LOST HIS MILITARY COMMISSION AND MOST OF HIS PRESTIGE. (CONFIDENTIAL) B-2 IMPDET. A

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 PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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MEA BRIEF 143-75.4

1. ETHIOPIA: THE PRESIDENT OF ETHIOPIA'S MILITARY COUNCIL, GENERAL TEFERI ~~W~~BENTI, SAID AT A PRESS CONFERENCE SUNDAY THAT THE US COMMUNICATIONS INSTALLATION IN ASMARA, PART OF WHICH WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED BY ERITREAN INSURGENTS OVER THE WEEKEND, WOULD BE CLOSED DOWN BY THE END OF THE YEAR. THE AGREEMENT WHICH COVERS THE INSTALLATION CANNOT BE LEGALLY TERMINATED BEFORE MAY 1979.4

TEFERI'S STATEMENT LEFT SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER HE MEANT THE FACILITY WOULD CEASE TO OPERATE OR MERELY OPERATE ON A MORE RESTRICTED BASIS. THE REMARK WAS IN LINE WITH A GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TO THE UN LAST YEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE INSTALLATION WOULD BE SHUT DOWN—A STATEMENT MADE TO PROMOTE AN ETHIOPIAN IMAGE OF NONALIGNMENT.4

THE TWO AMERICANS AND SIX ETHIOPIANS MANNING THE PART OF THE INSTALLATION THAT WAS ATTACKED ARE STILL MISSING. REPAIRS TO THE SITE CANNOT BE COMPLETED FOR AT LEAST A MONTH.4

THE ATTACK ON THE US INSTALLATION WAS DESIGNED TO DISRUPT THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER. THE CELEBRATION AT THE

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2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IF FILES #

OPPONENTS SINCE THE EMERGENCY WAS PROCLAIMED ON JUNE 26. THE  
 PUBLICIZED RELEASE OF A PROMINENT INDIAN JOURNALIST FRIDAY, AND  
 A FEW POLITICIANS EARLIER THIS WEEK, MAY BE A TRIAL RUN.4

IN THE LESS LIKELY EVENT THE COURT RULES AGAINST GANDHI,  
 SHE MIGHT DECIDE TO PRESS FOR MAJOR CHANGES IN THE STRUCTURE OF  
 THE GOVERNMENT. SHE HAS ALREADY MADE IT KNOWN THAT SHE FAVORS A  
 LESS POWERFUL JUDICIARY. HER PARTY'S LARGE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT  
 WOULD GIVE HER THE NECESSARY VOTES TO SECURE PASSAGE OF SUCH  
 LEGISLATION.4

MEANWHILE, THE GENERAL PUBLIC CONTINUES TO ACCEPT GANDHI'S  
 AUTHORITARIAN MEASURES, LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE COUNTRY'S  
 ENCOURAGING SHORT-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND THE INCREASED  
 DISCIPLINE IN BOTH THE BUREAUCRACY AND THE ECONOMY RESULTING  
 FROM EMERGENCY REGULATIONS. {CONFIDENTIAL} E-2 IMPDET.H

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## OUTGOING MESSAGE

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2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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INFO: FILE

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☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IF FILES #

EUROPEAN BRIEF 143-75.4

1. PORTUGAL: PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER - DESIGNATE AZEVEDO CLEARED A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS PROGRAM SATURDAY, BUT DIFFERENCES OVER THE COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET MUST STILL BE OVERCOME.4

AZEVEDO ANNOUNCED THAT MAJOR MELO ANTUNES WOULD BE THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT THAT THE REST OF THE CABINET WOULD NOT BE NAMED UNTIL EARLY THIS WEEK. THE PRINCIPAL DIFFICULTY SEEMS TO BE A COMMUNIST EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORE REPRESENTATION THAN EITHER THE SOCIALISTS OR THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS ARE WILLING TO PERMIT. THE APPOINTMENT OF ANTUNES, WHO LED THE OPPOSITION TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER GONCALVES, INDICATES THAT SOME OF THE COMMUNISTS' OBJECTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN OVERRIDDEN.4

THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY AZEVEDO IS IN GENERAL ACCORD WITH PREVIOUS DEMANDS BY THE SOCIALIST PARTY. HE INDICATED, FOR INSTANCE, THAT DEMOCRATIC PLURALISM WOULD PREVAIL IN THE STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA AND IN LABOR. AZEVEDO ALSO INDICATED THAT LOCAL ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD "WITHIN A REASONABLE

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 ORIG:  
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2		5		8	
3		6		9	

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CONF:

INFO: FILE

☐ INDEX DISSEM BY:  
☐ NO INDEX  
☐ RETURN TO PER  
☐ IF FILES #

PERIOD OF TIME" AND GUARANTEED THE FUNCTIONING OF THE  
CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.4

AZEVEDO LEFT NO DOUBT THAT THE GOALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT  
WOULD BE TO ADVANCE TOWARD SOCIALISM AND TO DEFEND THOSE  
"REVOLUTIONARY" GAINS ALREADY MADE. HE PROMISED, HOWEVER,  
THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE WITH FULL RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC  
FREEDOMS.4

AZEVEDO ALSO CALLED FOR THE RESTORATION OF ORDER AND  
DISCIPLINE, PARTICULARLY IN THE ARMED FORCES. HE PROMISED A  
CRACKDOWN ON ARMED CIVILIAN GROUPS. HE GAVE LIP SERVICE TO  
FREEING PORTUGAL FROM FOREIGN ECONOMIC DOMINATION, BUT ALSO  
INDICATED HE WOULD SEEK CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH WESTERN  
EUROPE. NAMING ANTUNES AS FOREIGN MINISTER IS A  
STEP IN THAT DIRECTION AND AN INDICATION THAT ONE OF THE FIRST  
MOVES OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE TO SEEK ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE EC.4

THE EC COMMISSION'S WORKING GROUP ON PORTUGAL IS SCHEDULED TO  
RESUME MEETINGS MONDAY TO MAKE TECHNICAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CONF:

INFO: FILE

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PRESENTATION OF AN AID PACKAGE TO THE EC COUNCIL. THE COMMISSION IS ENCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL AND IS HOPEFUL THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE ABLE TO AGREE ON A FIGURE FOR THE AID PACKAGE AT THEIR MEETING ON OCTOBER 6 AND 7, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE ANOTHER SIX MONTHS BEFORE ANY FUNDS BEGAN TO FLOW.

{CONFIDENTIAL}4

2. SPAIN: TENSION CONTINUES TO MOUNT AS TIME RUNS OUT FOR THE TWO BASQUE TERRORISTS CONDEMNED TO DEATH LATE LAST MONTH FOR KILLING A MEMBER OF THE CIVIL GUARD.4

THE CONTROVERSY STIRRED BY THE HANDLING OF THE CASE, WHICH IS NOW BEING REVIEWED BY THE SUPREME MILITARY TRIBUNAL, IS LIKELY TO BE INTENSIFIED BY THE DEATH SENTENCE PASSED YESTERDAY AGAINST THREE MEMBERS OF A MARXIST-LENINIST TERRORIST ORGANIZATION-THE PATRIOTIC AND ANTI-FASCIST REVOLUTIONARY FRONT-WHO WERE CONVICTED OF SLAYING A POLICEMAN IN JULY.4

FEW ISSUES IN SPAIN ARE AS CAPABLE OF MOBILIZING THE FAR RIGHT AND THE SECURITY FORCES AS THE KILLING OF POLICEMEN. LAST MONTH MEMBERS OF THE CIVIL GUARD-THE ELITE PARAMILITARY POLICE

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	2		5		8	
	3		6		9	

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CLASSIFICATION

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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INFO: FILE

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FORCE-AND CIVILIAN RIGHTIST GROUPS USED THE FUNERAL OF A SLAIN GUARDSMAN AS A FOCAL POINT FOR A DEMONSTRATION THAT NEARLY GOT OUT OF HAND. CARS CARRYING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE DAMAGED AND THE DEMONSTRATORS SHOUTED CRITICISM OF THE ARIAS GOVERNMENT.<sup>4</sup> *AP* THE CAMPAIGN TO PRESSURE FRANCO INTO COMMUTING THE DEATH SENTENCES ALSO IS GATHERING SUPPORT. A WAVE OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND STRIKES HAS SWEEPED THE BASQUE PROVINCE SINCE THE TWO TERRORISTS WERE CONVICTED LAST MONTH. ONE DEMONSTRATOR HAS BEEN KILLED BY POLICE AND SEVERAL OTHERS WOUNDED, BUT EVEN GREATER VIOLENCE IS LIKELY IF THE EXECUTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT.<sup>4</sup>

THE DEATH SENTENCES HAVE PROMPTED A FLOOD OF PROTESTS BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS, TRADE UNIONS, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS. IN ADDITION, SPANISH DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR FACILITIES IN PORTUGAL, AS WELL AS THE SPANISH CONSULATE AND SPANISH-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE FRENCH BASQUE COUNTRY, HAVE BEEN BOMBED, AND THERE HAVE BEEN LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS IN LISBON, BRUSSELS, AND PARIS.<sup>4</sup>

UNDER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES IN 1970, FRANCO COMMUTED THE DEATH SENTENCES OF SIX BASQUE TERRORISTS. THE REACTION FROM

DATE:

ORIG:

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EXT:

## OUTGOING MESSAGE

1		4		7	
2		5		8	
3		6		9	

PAGE      OF      PAGES

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RIGHTIST FORCES IN SPAIN THIS TIME IS PROBABLY AN EFFORT TO  
COUNTERBALANCE THE EXPECTED ARGUMENTS BY MORE LIBERAL ELEMENTS OF  
THE GOVERNMENT THAT SPAIN'S IMAGE WILL SUFFER SERIOUS DAMAGE  
ABROAD IF THE SENTENCES ARE CARRIED OUT. {CONFIDENTIAL}H

3. YUGOSLAVIA-USSR-CHINA: BELGRADE AND MOSCOW ONCE AGAIN  
ARE DISPLAYING CONTRASTING ATTITUDES TOWARD CHINA AND THE  
MIDDLE EAST.4

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THAT YUGOSLAV

PREMIER BIJEDIC WILL VISIT PEKING NEXT MONTH. HE SAID THAT  
ALTHOUGH NO PRECISE DATES IN OCTOBER HAVE BEEN SET, THE TRIP  
WILL LAST A WEEK. BILATERAL ECONOMIC ISSUES ARE TO DOMINATE  
THE DISCUSSIONS.4

BIJEDIC WOULD BE THE HIGHEST LEVEL YUGOSLAV EVER TO VISIT CHINA. HIS TRIP HAS BEEN PLANNED "IN PRINCIPLE" SINCE EARLY THIS YEAR.4

THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION OF THE VISIT FROM YUGOSLAV SOURCES. PEKING HAS OFTEN TRIED TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND THE EAST EUROPEANS, AND [REDACTED] MAY B

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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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INFO: FILE

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AHEAD OF THE GAME IN SPREADING WORD OF BIJEDIC'S PLANS. TITO  
GENERALLY PREFERS TO STAY OUT OF THE SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE, AND  
THE CURRENT SOVIET POLEMICS AGAINST MAO'S REGIME COULD  
PERSUADE HIM TO DELAY BIJEDIC'S VISIT.4

TITO IS NEVERTHELESS QUITE CAPABLE OF UNDERLINING HIS  
INDEPENDENCE FROM MOSCOW WITH AN OVERTURE TOWARD CHINA,  
PARTICULARLY IF HE FEELS THE SOVIETS ARE PRESSING TOO HARD  
ON ISSUES THAT ARE HARMFUL TO YUGOSLAV INTERESTS. A LONG-STANDING  
SUBJECT OF CONTENTION IS THE PROPOSED PAN-EUROPEAN  
COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE, AND BELGRADE AND MOSCOW ALSO  
HAVE ADOPTED CONFLICTING LINES ON THE DESIRABILITY OF THE  
SINAT ACCORDS. {CONFIDENTIAL}4

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PAGE OF PAGE

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DATE-TIME GROUP

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MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

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